

Message Text

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PAGE 01 THE HA 03526 161345Z

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ACTION ARA-20

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R 161022Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3978

INFO AMCONSUL PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMCONSUL CURACAO

AMCONSUL MARTINIQUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 3526

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, NS, NL

SUBJ: SURINAM AND US POLICY

REF: PARAMARIBO 324

1. WE HAVE READ WITH GREAT INTEREST CONSUL GENERAL JOHNSTON'S FAREWELL LOOK AT SURINAM. WE COMMEND HIM FOR HIS EXCELLENT ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL SITUATION AND HIS FRANK CONCLUSION THAT THE OUTLOOK IS BESET WITH A NUMBER OF SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

2. CONSUL GENERAL JOHNSTON HAS ALSO PERFORMED A MOST VALUABLE SERVICE IN FOCUSING ATTENTION ON US INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN SURINAM. WE FULLY SUBSCRIBE TO HIS VIEW THAT ONCE SURINAM IS INDEPENDENT, WHICH MEANS ONLY A YEAR TO A YEAR AND A HALF FROM NOW, THE NEW FACT WHICH WILL BECOME APPARENT IS THAT IT IS THE US, NOT HOLLAND, THAT HAS THE GREATEST INTEREST IN SURINAM'S STABILITY. ONCE THE LOGIC OF THAT IS UNDERSTOOD AND ACCEPTED, IT BECOMES A LOT EASIER TO THINK IN TERMS OF US ACTIONS OR US ENCOURAGEMENT OF ACTIONS TO FOSTER SURINAM'S STABILITY.

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PAGE 02 THE HA 03526 161345Z

3. REFTEL IDENTIFIES-CORRECTLY IN OUR JUDGMENT-

PROBLEMS CONNECTED WITH THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY AND DEVELOPMENT OF SURINAM AS THE ONES MOST LIABLE TO THREATEN ITS STABILITY. CONSUL GENERAL JOHNSTON RECOMMENDS A TWO-PRONGED COURSE OF ACTION: (A) A CONTINUOUS US DIALOGUE WITH THE GON AIMED AT MAINTAINING A MAJOR DUTCH DEVELOPMENT AID COMMITMENT TO SURINAM; AND (B) A FLEXIBLE APPLICATION OF THE US POLICY OF NON-INVOLVEMENT TO MAKE POSSIBLE THE LIMITED ASSISTANCE PROJECTS AND TRAINING, VISITATION AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS RECOMMENDED IN PARA 17 OF REFTEL. IT OCCURS TO US THAT OUR CHANCES OF PERSUADING THE DUTCH TO CONTINUE TO SHOULDER A LARGE SHARE OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR SURINAM'S POST-INDEPENDENCE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND STABILITY WILL BE GREATLY ENHANCED IF THE US "SWEETENS THE KITTY" BY DOING A LITTLE SOMETHING ITSELF. IN KEEPING WITH THIS DOCTRINE, WE STRONGLY ENDORSE PARAMARIBO'S RECOMMENDATION THAT USIA ASSIGN A FULL-TIME RESIDENT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER, WHO SHOULD BE APPROPRIATELY TRAINED AND ON THE JOB AT THE CONSULATE GENERAL WELL BEFORE INDEPENDENCE.

4. IN SUBSEQUENT TELEGRAM WE WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL THOUGHTS ON FACTORS AFFECTING US INTERESTS AND OBJECTIVES IN SURINAM AS SEEN FROM THE HAGUE. WE REITERATE OUR SUPPORT FOR CONSUL GENERAL JOHNSTON'S REALISTIC OBSERVATIONS AND INTELLIGENT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE MODEST US ATTENTION TO SURINAM NEEDED TO ASSURE ITS STABILITY AND BASIC ORIENTATION TOWARD THE US.
TANGUY

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